



Pope High School  
**PTSA**  
everychild.one voice.

# HOUND HIGHLIGHTS

A Weekly PTSA E-Newsletter for Pope High School Parents and Students  
3001 Hembree Road, Marietta GA 30062, 770-578-7900  
Vol. 7, No. 19 ♦ Thursday, January 22, 2009



Send submissions to [popehoundhighlights@comcast.net](mailto:popehoundhighlights@comcast.net) ♦ Deadline: Tuesdays 5PM

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## IMPORTANT DATES

January 23	Basketball Homecoming
January 24	Winter Homecoming Dance
January 28	Informational Meeting Class of 2010
February 4	Early Release 1:25 Dismissal
February 18	Open House & PTSA Meeting

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## FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

### NEW SCHEDULE MEETINGS

As Pope begins to move to the new schedule, we would like to meet with parents and students to present the schedule and answer any questions. Please note that there are opportunities during the day and in the evening. Also note that the evening meetings are specific by grade. If you have any questions, please contact Robert Shaw, Assistant Principal at [robert.shaw@cobbk12.org](mailto:robert.shaw@cobbk12.org).

### Q & A with the Administration Meetings

10:00 AM - Theater (please check in with the front office)

February 2

February 9

March 18

### Informational Meetings

Students & Parents Welcome

7:30 PM – Theater

January 28 – class of 2010

February 11 - classes of 2011/2012

April 13 – class of 2013

### PROJECT DAFFODIL – WINTER HOMECOMING DANCE

The Winter Homecoming Dance is this Saturday, January 24 in the Pope Cafeteria. 8:00-10:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. Attire is underground glow.

### FRONT OFFICE VOLUNTEERS-DATE CHANGE!

The Front Office Volunteer training has been rescheduled for Tuesday January 27 from 9:30 AM-10:30 AM. Anyone who may be interested in volunteering in the front office is encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Monica at 770-565-2600.

## GIMME \$5 FOR EDUCATION

This year our school is participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation Campaign "Gimme 5 for Education" campaign to raise funds for the Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation! The Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation is the only non-profit organization that supports all our schools, staff and students in Cobb County School District. All funds collected will directly benefit our schools through Foundation supported scholarships, grants and programs for our schools, staff and students. Help us reach our goal of 100% participation, please make a \$5 tax-deductible contribution in the envelope that your student brought home and return it to school today! Contributions can be brought to homeroom teachers or to PPO. Please be sure you have your child's name and homeroom teacher on the back of the envelope so we can provide a receipt. Contributions are due back by January 30.

## HAVE YOU JOINED THIS EFFORT?

Thank you to the 63 families who have already signed up for the Georgia Natural Gas (GNG) TrueBlue Schools gas service! By signing up with GNG, these families represent just over \$950 that GNG will contribute to Pope High School. That's easy money! Have YOU signed up yet? If you are already a GNG customer, simply go to [www.popehigh.com](http://www.popehigh.com) and click on the TrueBlue Schools logo. Then, select "Yes, I am a GNG customer", follow the prompts and select Pope High School. GNG will then donate \$25 to Pope AND give us \$5 per month that you stay with GNG. *That's just for being a customer!* If you are not currently a GNG customer but would like to become one, you can make the switch online! Go to [www.popehigh.com](http://www.popehigh.com), click on the TrueBlue Schools logo and then "No, I am not currently a GNG Customer." You will be prompted through the sign-up process. **Be sure to have a copy of your current gas marketers' bill, and be sure to write down the \$25 Visa gift card promotion number from that first screen!** (That's just a small 'thank you' from GNG for making the switch.) Or, if you prefer, you can call a customer service representative at 1-866-ONLY-GNG, Monday –Friday 7 a.m. – 10 p.m. or Saturday 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. Once you receive a GNG account number, you'll follow the same procedures listed above for current customers and you'll have helped Pope earn cash! Questions about this program? Email [info@popehighschoolfoundation.com](mailto:info@popehighschoolfoundation.com) and someone will respond to you!

## PTSA NEWS

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – CALL TO ACTION

This week the Governor presented his budget, with over \$491 million in cuts to education. Every aspect of education will feel the pinch: teacher salaries and training, graduation and academic coaches, textbooks, capital improvements, National certified teachers, teacher mentors, and more. For details, visit Capitol Watch on the GA PTA website and read the Daily Reports: [Click here for Legislative Daily Reports](#).

**The Governor's budget for next year cuts all funding for school nurses.** You have received the dreaded phone call from school: your child is in the clinic, sick or injured. Do you know how many visits are made to your school's clinic every day, every week, every year? School nurses treat children for much more than playground cuts and scrapes. They administer medicine to treat diabetes, asthma, ADD, ADHD, allergies, headaches (including migraines), seizures, schizophrenia, and many other health issues. Without a school nurse, who will administer the epi-pen or insulin in a life-threatening situation? Who will stabilize broken bones? Who will be the trained first responder at your school? **You can make a difference. Call your legislators to tell them to restore funding for school nurses.** To look up your legislators' contact information, click on the link [Legislator Lookup](#).

It's that simple. Make our legislators understand the vital services school nurses provide. School secretaries can't keep all the prescription and non-prescription medicines in her drawer and dispense them when she has time. Teachers can't stop instruction – especially with increasing class sizes – to dispense medicine at specific times, attend to the child who is sick to his stomach or the student who fell on the playground and needs immediate medical attention.

## ♥ GIVING HEART TO HEART ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

It's time for our school-wide boxed Valentines drive for the students at Powers Ferry Elementary School, our sister school. We want to make it possible for every one of their 500 students to be able to exchange valentines. Can we make it happen? YES, we can! Boxed valentines can be dropped off in the white community outreach bin across from PPO until Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. This effort is sponsored by the PTSA Community Outreach Committee. Questions? Contact Debra Leon, 770-552-8091 or Carol Zepf, 770-640-9446.

## PTSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PTSA is looking for four members to form the Nominating Committee responsible for nominating the PTSA Officers for the 2009-2010 school year. The committee will be elected at the February 18 PTSA General Meeting. If you are interested please contact Karen Ponticelli at 770-650-9339 or [klpont@aol.com](mailto:klpont@aol.com).

## POPE SPIRIT WEAR 2009 AND STUDENT DIRECTORIES

Come and see our Pope SPIRIT WEAR every Friday at Pope. We have T-shirts, hoodies, sweat pants, pajama pants, and caps in Pope colors. Car magnets and Pope license plates are also available. We are set up in the Main corridor every FRIDAY MORNING between 7:00 AM and 8:30 AM. *Don't miss out on these cool, good quality, reasonably priced items.* You can also reach us anytime at 678-921-2015 or [Gaby2457@aol.com](mailto:Gaby2457@aol.com).

## YOUTH SERVICES

Are you concerned about the many issues that face our children today? Does teen drinking, using the cell phone while driving, texting while driving, eating disorders and internet safety have you wishing you could be with your child all the time? Then we have a great volunteer opportunity available for you! PTSA is looking for a chairperson for the Youth Services Committee. The purpose of this committee is to identify the greatest potential threats to children and youth and avert or lessen these dangers through education and programming. For more information call Pam Ziskend at 770-645-7763.

## HEROES ARE EVERYWHERE!

The PTSA is conducting an "Honoring Our Heroes" essay contest. Entry forms and instructions are available in the Media Center. Parents and teachers, encourage your students to think about their "real life" heroes. Challenge them to think of someone who has made a difference in their life by exhibiting qualities such as compassion, courage, dedication, generosity, perseverance, commitment, integrity, etc? Perhaps they are their parents, grandparents, siblings, or friends. Did a policeman, fireman, teacher, counselor, social worker, nurse, or doctor impact their life directly or indirectly? Encourage them to let their hero know what he or she means to them by entering the "Honoring Our Heroes" essay contest! Completed entries can be returned to the Heroes Box in the Media Center by February 20th. Questions? Contact Susan Tupper 770-578-6358 or [njtupper@comcast.net](mailto:njtupper@comcast.net).

## POPE FOUNDATION

### GREYHOUND GALA - FEBRUARY 28, 2009

Are you going to the Pope event of the year? Join us February 28 at the Cobb Galleria Centre. There are many ways to purchase your spot: 1- RSVP from your invitation which you should receive this week, 2- Contact your athletic coach or booster club designee, 3- Visit [www.popehigh.com](http://www.popehigh.com) and click on the Foundation logo in the bottom right hand corner. Purchase your spot today and have a portion benefit your selected Pope organization of choice.

## NEW LANDSCAPE!

The directional signs are in place! Our facelift is just about finished. We have ordered a new LED sign for the sign on Hembree Road and we expect that to be installed in approximately five weeks. Also, we are working to add signs to the front monument identifying our current sponsors and figuring out the details for lighting these

monuments. If you haven't seen the new look, be sure to take a drive by! We are still taking donations to support this effort. Mail checks, payable to the Pope Foundation, to the school address – 3001 Hembree Road, Marietta, GA 30062 OR pay securely online using PayPal at [www.popehighschoolfoundation.com](http://www.popehighschoolfoundation.com).

### **ATTENTION KROGER SHOPPERS - Action Required to Reactivate!!!**

The next time you pull out your Kroger Plus card to use, please be sure to ask the cashier to 'link' your card to Pope High School! Kroger pays a percentage back to schools who have signed up for their Earning Plus Learning program. The cashiers have a barcode available that they will scan after they scan your card....it's as simple as that! Even if you've done that in the past, please remember that Kroger requires each registered card to RESCAN at the beginning of each new school year to maintain these donations. Thank you for your support!

## **CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY**

On **Saturday, January 24**, from 9AM – 4PM, Pope Band will host its annual electronics recycling event in the Pope High School parking lot. This is the perfect time to safely dispose of obsolete or unusable computers, monitors, network equipment, peripherals, cables, televisions, cell phones, telephone equipment, stereos, game systems, tape players, etc. Items NOT accepted at this event are electronics in wood cabinets, kitchen/bathroom electronics and appliances. This is a fundraiser for the band; with a suggested donation of \$10 (generous contributions will be gratefully accepted!). Pick-up appointments are available – please email [PopeBandRecycles@popeband.org](mailto:PopeBandRecycles@popeband.org). Rain date will be Saturday, January 31. For more information, contact Philomena at 770/843-9210 or visit the band website at [popeband.org](http://popeband.org).

## **COUNSELORS' NEWS**

### **FRESHMAN PARENTS – FRESHMAN ADVISEMENT IS COMING!**

If you have not already done so, please be sure to call the Pope School Counseling Office at (770) 578-7903 to schedule your Freshman Advisement appointment time. This is the time when you sit down with a trained Advisor to go over all graduation requirements for your child and plan out his/her 4-year plan for meeting all graduation course requirements. Freshman Advisement will take place February 2, 3, 4, and 5. You don't want to miss out on this opportunity to speak one-on-one with an Advisor about your child's individual 4-year plan. Advisement appointments will be held in the Media Center. They will be 25 minutes in length and will start after school at 3:45 PM with the last appointment slot starting 7:40 PM. We encourage all freshman students to attend this meeting with their parent(s) as well if possible.

### **STUDENT/PARENT PSAT NIGHT, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 7:00 PM IN THE THEATER**

Attention Sophomores and Juniors who paid to take the PSAT. PSAT scores are here, and were distributed on 12/16 in homeroom, but what do they mean? **We have scheduled a special event for students and parents where we will go over the score report in detail!** RSVP online at [www.princetonreview.com/events](http://www.princetonreview.com/events) (Look under SAT, enter zip code and click on event for 2/17/09). Come hear the Princeton Review in conjunction with the Pope School Counseling Department speak about:

- \* A detailed analysis of your PSAT Score Report and results
- \* A walk-through of the college admissions timeline
- \* An introduction to the SAT, ACT, and SAT Subject Tests
- \* A plan for a stress-free college admissions process
- \* Preview [gacollege411.org](http://gacollege411.org) web site - a comprehensive website for planning, applying and paying for college

**\*\*BE SURE TO BRING YOUR PSAT SCORE REPORT WITH YOU TO THIS MEETING!**

## **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT**

A representative from the Georgia Student Finance Commission will be speaking at the Financial Aid Night at Pope on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Bring all your questions concerning financial aid that night or just come to gather information. Parents and students are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held in the theater.

## **HOUNDS HELPING OTHERS**

### **MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE**

February 6 ~ Annual Memorial Blood Drive. **Please help us keep the memory of Shelby Matheson, Tyson McRee, Richard Bailey and Kimberly Andrews** alive by your donation of blood. Time: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 2:30 PM - 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall of The Episcopal Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. You may donate blood if you are 17 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. You may donate every 56 days.

## **FROM THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR...**

### **POPE WRESTLING**

Congratulations to the wrestling team. They placed second in the state at the State Duels Tournament. They defeated Marietta High School, Lowndes County, and Union Grove. They lost a tough finals match against Collins Hill. Congratulations!

### **POPE FENCING**

The Pope Fencing club was at their finest on Saturday at a tournament in Forsythe County, at North Gwinnett High School. Our own Matt Stephens and Chloe Bowman both took second place. Mary Grimshaw finished in 5th and Tyler Stollman finished in 6th place. Stephanie Yawn and one of our newest fencers, Harrison Shapiro, both finished in the top 10. Pope has had an amazing year and will fence in the next Epee tournament on February 21st at Alpharetta High School. Tyler Stollman also fenced in a sabre tournament at Brookwood High School and brought home the silver second place medal.

### **POPE BASKETBALL**

All of the basketball teams will be in action this Friday. The JV and freshman boys will be at Lassiter. The JV girls, Varsity Girls, and the Varsity boys play at Pope High School. Please come and support the basketball teams.

# **GO HOUNDS!**

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